

OPINION 2038 (Case 3155)**MACROTHERMITINAE Kemner, 1934 (Insecta, Isoptera): given precedence over ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the family-group name MACROTHERMITINAE is given precedence over ACANTHOTERMITINAE. Usage of the family-group name MACROTHERMITINAE Kemner, 1934 (type genus *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909) for a well known and important group of fungus-growing termites is thus conserved. The senior subfamily name ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926 (type genus *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900) has been used only once since its establishment 77 years ago, and then for a tribe within MACROTHERMITINAE not including *Macrotermes*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; TERMITIDAE; MACROTHERMITINAE; ACANTHOTERMITINAE; *Macrotermes*; *Acanthotermes*; termites.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the family-group name MACROTHERMITINAE Kemner, 1934 and other family-group names based on *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909 are to be given precedence over ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926 and other family-group names based on *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Termes lilljeborgi* Sjöstedt, 1896;
 - (b) *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Sjöstedt (1926) *Termes acanthothorax* Sjöstedt, 1898.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *lilljeborgi* Sjöstedt, 1896, as published in the binomen *Termes lilljeborgi* (specific name of the type species of *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909);
 - (b) *acanthothorax* Sjöstedt, 1898, as published in the binomen *Termes acanthothorax* (specific name of the type species of *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900).
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) MACROTHERMITINAE Kemner, 1934 (type genus *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Macrotermes* are to be given precedence over ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926 and other family-group names based on *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
 - (b) ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926 (type genus *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on

Acanthotermes are not to be given priority over MACROTERMITINAE Kemner, 1934 and other family-group names based on *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.

History of Case 3155

An application to conserve the usage of the family-group name MACROTERMITINAE Kemner, 1934 (type genus *Macrotermes* Holmgren, 1909) for a well known and important group of fungus-growing termites, by giving it precedence over the senior subfamily name ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926, was received from Michael S. Engel (*Division of Entomology, Snow Hall, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) and Kumar Krishna (*Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) on 27 March 2000. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **58**: 206–209 (September 2001). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 2002 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **58**: 207–208. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2003 the votes were as follows: 21 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 3 Commissioners (Alonso-Zarazaga, Lamas and Minelli) voted AGAINST, no vote was received from Mahnert, Ng was on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900, *Entomologisk Tidskrift*, **20**: 278.
ACANTHOTERMITINAE Sjöstedt, 1926, *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, (3)**3**(1): 8, 60.
acanthothorax, *Termes*, Sjöstedt, 1898, *Entomologisk Tidskrift*, **19**: 204.
lilljeborgi, *Termes*, Sjöstedt, 1896, *Festskrift för Lilljeborg*, p. 269.
Macrotermes Holmgren, 1909, *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, (2)**44**(3): 193.
MACROTERMITINAE Kemner, 1934, *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, (3)**13**(4): 69.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Termes acanthothorax* Sjöstedt, 1898 as the type species of the nominal genus *Acanthotermes* Sjöstedt, 1900:

- Sjöstedt, Y.** 1926, *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, (3)**3**(1): 60.